

Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes

(Correction made on September 14, 2014)

June 20, 2014, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Philippine American Community Center of Michigan
17356 Northland Park Court, Southfield, MI 48075

Attendance

Present: Asim Alavi, Nasim Ansari, Willie Dechavez, Hannah Feikema, Mumtaz Haque, Jamie Hsu, Ph.D., Roland Hwang, Anand Kumar, David Long, Toshiki Masaki, Ryan Rosario, Jeffrey Vang, Ramesh Verma, Peter Wong and Tsu-Yin Wu

Conference Call-In: Connie Dang and Guozhen Lu, Ph.D.

Guests and Staff: Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Mary McLellan, MDCR Commission Liaison and Denise Yee Grim, MAPAAC Community Liaison

Guest Speaker: Joe Borgstrom, Director, MI-EB-5 Regional Center

Unable to attend: Mamatha Charmarathi, Soraya Kim, David Long, Henry Tanaka and Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Jamie Hsu called the regular meeting of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission to order at 9:02 a.m. on June 20, 2014.

II. Administration Update:

Denise Yee Grim and Mary McLellan investigated the mileage reimbursement for the commissioners and reported that the commissioners are entitled to the state of Michigan standard mileage rate of .39 per mile. They also encouraged the commissioners to turn in their mileage and expenses for MAPAAC business-related travel to Mary in a timely manner, so we can maintain the budget.

Mary proposed the opportunity of having an online expense reimbursement form and the commissioners agreed that it would be more efficient to have an online form. Mary will investigate this opportunity with the state of MI.

Denise announced that APACC agreed to be our fiduciary for MAPAAC. Thank you Milndia for holding the funds and Roland Hwang and Dan Levy for drafting the MOU. ACTION: Denise will email a copy of MOU to the commissioners.

III. Proposal of Pilot Survey of APAs for their position on selected upcoming issues:

Peter Wong presented the proposal of the APA survey. The proposal will address four of the mandates to provide advice and recommendations to the Governor and legislature and it will allow us to get the opinions of the APAs on selected upcoming issues in the state of MI. Peter shared a high level blueprint of gathering information from the APA communities, which included: i) Identifying the issues for the survey ii) distribution of the survey, iii) analysis of the survey iv) report preparation and v) propose solutions/ recommendation by the commission.

The commissioners participated in a discussion on the criteria in picking the topics for the survey. The following are the criteria and suggestions for the survey:

- Has to be non-partisan
- Impact APA broadly
- Consideration of certain specific group within APA –disparity impact

- The issues must align with MAPAAC's initiatives and activities
- Survey could be policies already in place – want APA's opinion
- Find out more about the statistics of APA's in MI – to supplement the populations survey (e.g., student population)
- Decide areas then decide issues
- Need to determine how to reach non-Internet users, if using e-survey
- Breakdown survey to different concerns
- Combine both qualitative and quantitative questions
- How to tailor questions to specific groups
- Jean Doss, lobbyist, is willing to talk with us – Mary to arrange a meeting
- Print out the survey for commissioners and/or occasions to distribute them out

The survey will be sent out in partnership with the three APA organizations to their membership. APIA-Vote MI and APACC has confirmed. APACC would like to review the questions, prior to emailing it out to its membership. CAPA need to be confirmed. ACTION: Denise to follow up.

Peter is willing to work with whoever leads this project and present detailed steps to the commission. As a first step, we will come up with 4-5 topics that meet the criteria. Then at the next meeting, vote on the topics to discuss with Steve Mitchell, then come back and present it to commissioners for approval. Results of the survey will be compiled by Mitchell and finally the commission will decide what to do with it. Jamie agreed and recommended that we should have a draft questionnaire developed and presented to the commission for feedback.

Nasim Ansari raised a motion, that in principal, the proposal presented is worthwhile for MAPAAC to pursue and the details of the proposal should be worked out. Toshiki Masaki seconded. Motion passed.

An Ad hoc committee was formed to determine the topics and help put this project in place. The members of the committee are: Peter Wong - Chair, Asim Alavi, Jeff Vang, Nasim Ansari, Ryan Rosario, Mary McLellan and Denise Yee Grim.

Another discussion developed to create another project on gathering good statistics on the APA community by Anand Kumar. Beside the census, we need to find more about APAs in different fields/professions. Then narrow down the issues for the specific groups in the APA community. The data would be disaggregated within the Asian sub groups. This data would be powerful to be presented to the legislature or the general population and showing that APAs are changing the landscape in MI and contributing to the state and then narrow it down to specific issues of any of their groups (topics).

Senator Hopgood supported the proposal and said that he can put resources and dedicate funding to this project. It is a longer term and broader project. Jeff Vang seconded what Senator Hopgood said and agreed with Anand's proposal. It needs to be a scientific survey. A decision was made to move forward with Mitchell survey to learn about the APA community concerns and issues and use that information to create a more scientific survey.

IV. Approval of the March 14, 2014 Meeting Minutes: Two modifications: Add Willie Dechavez name to the attendance list and change Eastern State University to Eastern Michigan University. Ramesh Verma motion to approve the minutes with the changes and Willie Dechavez seconded. Motion passed.

V. Reports of SIG Groups:

SIG 1: Asim Alavi presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Racial Equality Initiative project funded by the Kellogg Foundation through the APIA health forum based in CA. The goal of this project is to eliminate structural barriers and institutionalize racial equality. Topics in scope are i) food, health and well-being ii) family economics and security, iii) education and learning. The focus is on the Troy and Hamtramck school districts to create a forum to address the family and kids' challenges and limitations.

The partner organizations are: APIA-Vote MI, Bangladeshi American Public Affairs Committee, MAI Family Services and MAPAAC. There was a fifth organization, but they had to drop out due to logistical challenges. Since they lost on the fifth organization that was leading the Troy effort, the REI partners are more focused in the Hamtramck school district.

The goal of this project is to make schools more inclusive of South Asian children in Hamtramck. The project is trying to achieve two things i) to create a disaggregated data collection effort through mechanisms and policies so for example, if all schools are required in MI to create bullying data by the state of MI, they want to make it more disaggregated and identify the race and ethnicity of the victim and the perpetrator. ii) to decrease incidents of cultural insensitivity and bullying through programs and creation of tool kits for children, families and educators.

Asim continued by sharing the four objectives -coalition building, community assessment and quality scans, community action plan and evidence base strategies. One objective is to train and educate the teachers and administrators in the Hamtramck school district about the Bangladesh community and some of the challenges they are facing. They have created two work groups: 1) Parent support group – to educate the parents to be more involved in their school district and what is going on in the schools with their kids. They had completed three sessions and received feedback from the parents. They are developing more plans to engage a broader audience.

Second collaborative effort was to hire an educationist and consultant from Hamtramck. He is to create six – two-hour development workshops for the teachers and administrators and these workshop will start in the Fall 2014.

Asim explained that the original timeline for executing the objectives was Dec. 31, 2014 but it has been extended to March 2015 in hopes to complete the ten sessions with the parents. Also, the project is not abandoning the city of Troy effort; they are meeting with Dr. Jay Marks, a diversity consultant with the Oakland School Districts, and will continue to work with him to expand the scope of the program and lessons learned from Hamtramck into Troy, Farmington and Novi area.

MAPAAC's role is to reach out to resources in the state of MI. Mary is assisting in reaching out to Melissa who is heading the anti-bullying initiatives for MDCR. Once the project is complete and have some concrete results, MAPAAC will be the conduit to take the recommendations and findings to the appropriate State agencies. The intent is to create a sustainable program. By building a pilot program in Hamtramck and the lessons learn, we should expand this with other Asian communities.

SIG 2: Tsu-Yin Wu gave a quick recap of what SIG 2 focus was and that they conducted eleven town hall meetings in 2013 to March 2014 to educate the community of state programs and the

Affordable Care Act (ACA). Six of these town halls were funded by MAPAAC. The other five were funded by APIAHF.

Tsu-Yin presented her proposal to continue the town hall meetings to educate individuals/families on eligibility and criteria of the extended Medicaid (i.e., Healthy MI Plan, HMP.) They will continue to work with MDCH and other speakers/experts in the HMP to educate people about accessibility and eligibility to the extended Medicaid program. They will work with the Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Indian and Vietnamese community organizations in Southeast and Western Michigan to arrange the town halls. The requested budget is \$12,000.00. The goal is to have six town hall meeting completed by September 30, 2014.

Jamie suggested that at these town hall meetings, we should take the opportunity to pass out the survey and to listen to other community issues in addition to Medicaid or healthcare.

Peter Wong motioned to support the continuation of the town hall meetings and Ryan Rosario seconded. Motion passed.

SIG 3: Roland Hwang reported for SIG 3 Chair, Henry Tanaka. Roland thanked the people for their assistance in surveying application enrollment and admission data for several MI colleges.

They are still gathering information from other institutions and he spoke on the draft report of raw data, 2006-2012. The following are the observations:

Northern MI University

- APA applicants are trending down. 2010: 1.6%, 2011: 1.7% and 2012: 1.2%
- Undergrads: 2010: 1% and 2012: 0.9%
- Graduate: 2010: 17.5% and 2012: 8.6%
- Admission to the graduate program: 2010: 33.3% and 2012: 22.2%

This invites us to inquire for an explanation why there is dramatic changes in Northern MI.

Eastern MI University:

- APA applicants are trending up. 2010: 3.1%, 2012: 3.6%
- Undergrads: 2010: 2.7%, 2012: 3.1%
- Admission rate: 2010: 71.5%, 2011: 63%, 2012: 71.8%

Oakland Community College: APA applicants are even. 2010: 3.9%, 2011: 4.0% and 2012: 4.0%

Grand Valley State University: They lost scholarship money for APA and minority students, so there was a steep drop in enrollment 2006-2009 period. Enrollment went up in Fall 2010 to 139, 2011 to 240, and 254 in 2012.

They have the web link for University of MI data and it needed to be reviewed. We are waiting for information from MSU and WSU. Next step is to take the raw data, analyze it and produce a report. They will add Western University with Nasim Ansari's assistance and will review Oakland University provided by Mumtaz Haque.

The goal is to identify reasons for the decline of APAs enrollment and address them accordingly.

Budget Update:

Tsu-Yin Wu talked about the budget spreadsheet and highlighted the actual and forecast of the expenditure. Jamie stated that we will have \$20K left in 2014. Mary shared the 2015 budget: \$110,800.00. We need to determine the allocation of money at the start of the fiscal year – October 1, 2015. Jamie recognized and thanked Senator Hopgood and MDCR Executive Director, Matt Wesaw, for their support.

All 2014 invoices and expense reimbursements must be submitted by September 15, 2014. Denise will email notices 2-3 weeks prior to the deadline.

Mary will email Peter Wong the itemized expenses of the budget. Jamie thanked Peter for driving the budget process.

Recap on Co-sponsored Events:

Jamie reported out MAPAAC's sponsored events in May, which included: an informal networking lunch prior to the APA Heritage Day at the Capital Celebration and MAPAAC award presentation in Lansing; a joint sponsorship with CAPA for the VIP reception of the Splendor of the East Celebration. Governor Snyder accepted our invitation and Bing Goei attended the event as well. The governor now has a better understanding of MAPAAC and we showed him that MAPAAC has a link with the APA organizations and leaders in MI.

Jamie mentioned that we might do something similar next year, where MAPAAC will sponsor a forum and invite APA organizations, legislature, state agencies and the Governor to attend. The forum will be an opportunity to talk about issues of mutual interest and joint initiatives.

Discussion on Strategic Retreat for 2015:

After discussion, Jamie summarized by stating that we will have a public meeting and a strategic retreat on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at Eastern Michigan University with a shorter agenda for a one hour regular meeting for the public to participate.

The executive committee will work on the agenda and will get the commissioners' feedback.

New Business

Ramesh suggested to use the MAPAAC's externally raised funds, to arrange a banquet for the commissioners and alumni commissioners. We can call it a network dinner and invite state representatives and APA leaders.

Senator Hopgood suggested to have a broader discussion on what we do with this money and if we should continue on soliciting outside dollar. MAPAAC has a brand and it's valuable.

Roland suggested to use the money as a rainy day fund; we cannot count on the legislature to come up with the appropriate money every year.

Anand said that the money collected by MilIndia as a MAPAAC fiduciary was specific for the APA heritage celebration. Once money passes through a non-profit organization, there are guidelines to be followed and we must show how the funds will be spend. We must be mindful of how we spend the money.

The executive committee was tasked to create a one-pager proposal that includes a theme and purpose of how to use the money.

Another business item: Ramesh Verma commented at last year's commission meeting, it was decided that when a commissioner misses three meetings, some action should be taken. Jamie requested Mary to check with the Office of Appointments on commissioners who miss meetings.

MI EB-5 Regional Center Presentation:

Joe Borgstrom, Director of the MI EB-5 Regional Center presented a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the commissioners (See appendix A).

Announcements:

Roland Hwang announced two events:

Fair Housing Forum hosted by the American Citizens for Justices, Fair Housing Center of Detroit at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne Law School on July 12 at WSU 10:00 AM -Noon.

Netroots Nation Convention showing of Vincent Who? and panel discussion on Race in Detroit. Curtis Chen will be in town and Roland will be on the panel. July 18th. 6:30 p.m. at Cobo Center. Support by ACJ and Detroit Association of Black Organizations.

Ryan Rosario announced an event on October 23 – APACC Salute to Excellence Award Dinner honoring Asian Americans. APACC looking for nominations of businesses and individuals business professionals.

The meeting concluded at 11:57 A.M.

Minutes prepared by: Denise Yee Grim, July 23, 2014. Revised with correction on September 14, 2014.

Minutes submitted by:

Asim Alavi, Secretary